

**'EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ARE LEAVING
TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TO DIE'**

SPANISH FIREFIGHTER FACING JAIL FOR HELPING REFUGEES SPEAKS OUT >>PAGES 10&11



Socialist Worker

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AS RIGHT ATTACKS LABOUR OVER ANTISEMITISM...

TORIES ARE THE REAL RACISTS

RIGHT WINGERS gunning for Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn hope they can force him out if they spread enough smears to paint him and his supporters as antisemitic.

No one should fall for the lies. Corbyn and the left have a long history of fighting racism. It's the Tories who are the real racists. We should fight them—and be proud to stand up for Palestine.

**'We should be proud
to stand up for
Palestine' >>Page 4**



JOHNSON— RACIST Tory

ANALYSIS

Dodgy deal sees military keep control in Sudan

OPPOSITION leaders in Sudan have agreed a deal that means military control for almost two years and no elections for more than three years.

It's an insult to the millions of people who have taken to the streets and shown immense courage to win civilian rule and democracy.

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GREECE



Tories win vote after years of Syriza austerity

ONCE-RADICAL left wing party Syriza was booted out of government after four years of enforcing austerity and racism.

Tory New Democracy swept into government just four years after being thrown out by Syriza.

Nazi Golden Dawn was left with no MPs.

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20 SEPT

Strike to stop climate chaos

WORKERS HAVE started to organise walkouts for the 20 September global climate strike—a day of radical action set to match the inspirational school students walkouts.

The strike will follow the "Summer Uprising" organised by Extinction Rebellion, which will see direct action next week.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Inept' and 'uniquely dysfunctional'

The views of the British ambassador to the US Sir Kim Darroch on Donald Trump in leaked emails

'We are not big fans of that man and he has not served the UK well. I can say things about him but I won't bother'

US President Donald Trump responds to the leaks

'No basis of truth in it whatsoever'

Nigel Farage, the Brexit Party leader defends Trump because he wants Darroch's job

'Our army manned the air, it rammed the ramparts, it took over airports'

Trump on US soldiers' prowess in the Revolutionary War with Britain in 1775—a little before airplanes were invented

'We are basically working for two persons and we are not able to do this any more'

Polish and Portuguese crew members petition on P&O's Pride of York, sailing between Hull and Rotterdam. They get paid £1.83 an hour



Billionaire child abuser arrest may reveal sordid truth on rich

FINANCIER JEFFREY Epstein has been arrested for trafficking and sexually assaulting girls at his mansion in New York.

"Oh my God. Finally, finally, finally. Justice!" said Michelle Licata, one of Epstein's victims who was molested by him when she was 16 years old.

Federal prosecutors were expected to unseal the new charges on Epstein as Socialist Worker went to press.

The arrest comes more than a decade after a widely criticised plea deal shielded him from similar charges in Florida.

This was despite a decade of alleged serial sexual abuse and rape of an unknowable number of girls, some as many as 100 times according to court papers.



DONALD TRUMP, Melania Knauss (now Trump) Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell at the Mar-a-Lago, Florida

Epstein was offered a secret plea deal by federal prosecutors, one of who is now in President Trump's cabinet.

That deal was negotiated in part by Alexander Aco, the former United States attorney

in the Southern District of Florida, who now serves as Trump's labor secretary.

They didn't tell the victims about the deal until it was agreed by a judge.

Instead of facing life in prison, Epstein pleaded guilty

to two prostitution charges in state court.

He served about a year in a Palm Beach jail, though he was allowed to leave the facility six days a week, 12 hours a day on work-release to his office.

Epstein has been accused of keeping vulnerable teenagers, staging orgies on board his private jet and flying girls as young as 12 to "topless parties".

Lawyers for one 14-year-old whose stepmother initially triggered the investigation into Epstein accused Epstein in a lawsuit of cynically seeking out "economically disadvantaged underage girls".

That was because they would be "less likely to complain to authorities or have credibility if allegations of improper conduct were made".

DONALD TRUMP told New York Magazine in 2002 that his friend Jeffrey Epstein was a "terrific guy." "He's a lot of fun to be with," Trump said at the time. "It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. "No doubt about it—Jeffrey enjoys his social life."



Epstein and Trump

JULIE K Brown, Miami Herald reporter on the case said, "Needless to say, these are very powerful people and I think that they're sweating a little bit, especially today. We don't know how much, how deep this went, how far-reaching it went in government, but there have been a lot of names that I could see on these message pads [listing clients] on a regular basis as part of the evidence."

Contact book with 16 numbers for prince

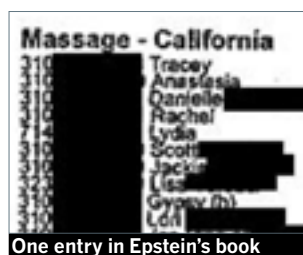
EPSTEIN'S PRIVATE contacts book, seized by police, leaves no doubt he was once supremely well-connected.

There is no suggestion any of the individuals named in the book participated in or knew of Epstein's abuse of minors, or were involved in anyway.

But Epstein's contacts book reads like a directory of the world's global elite and their hangers-on.

Under the letter B are listed Tony Blair, Michael Bloomberg, and Richard Branson.

Elsewhere there are multiple contacts—typically at offices, homes, and via aides' mobile phones—for Bill Clinton,



One entry in Epstein's book

Rupert Murdoch, Donald Trump, Dustin Hoffman, Naomi Campbell, and dozens of others.

The name that appears on page 31—opposite Formula 1 boss Bernie Ecclestone, who has 16 separate telephone numbers listed. That was for Epstein's special friend Prince Andrew, the Duke of York.

Luxury fantasy home with abuse at heart

EPSTEIN OWNS what he claimed was the most expensive house in New York.

It has 15-foot-high oak door, huge arched windows, and nine floors.

Vanity Fair described it, "Inside, amid the flurry of menservants attired in sober black suits and pristine white gloves, you feel you have stumbled into someone's private Xanadu. This is no mere rich person's home, but a high-walled, eclectic, imperious fantasy that seems to have no boundaries."

"The entrance hall is decorated not with paintings but with row



FBI turns up at Epstein's house

upon row of individually framed eyeballs; these, the owner tells people with relish, were imported from England, where they were made for injured soldiers.

"Guests are like pygmies next to the nearby twice-life-size sculpture of a naked African warrior."

Prince Andrew accused of abuse

VIRGINIA Roberts Giuffre said that billionaire Jeffrey Epstein groomed her and flew her to London in 2001.

This was so Prince Andrew could have sex with her. Virginia was 17 years old, and said that she became Epstein's "sex slave" when she was 15.

She was working as a spa attendant at Mar-a-Lago, President Donald Trump's winter home and resort in Palm Beach at the time.

She was introduced by British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, the daughter of crooked media mogul Robert Maxwell.

Andrew saw her three times—in London, New York and on Epstein's private Caribbean island.

Virginia is referred to as "Jane Doe 3" in US court documents.

They said, "Epstein also trafficked Jane Doe 3 for sexual purposes to many other powerful men."

This included "numerous prominent American politicians, powerful business



executives, foreign presidents, a well known prime minister and other world leaders."

Prince Andrew resigned from his role as a trade envoy for Britain in 2011 after he was pictured with Epstein again.

The royals have repeatedly issued strong denials of any wrongdoing.

A photograph was taken in 2001 at Maxwell's London home, (above) where Virginia says her first sexual encounter with the prince occurred. The image shows Andrew grinning with his arm around the 17-year-old. Maxwell, also smiling, is in the background.

There were also parties at Windsor Castle and Sandringham, an exclusive dinner in St Tropez and a holiday in Thailand when Andrew was pictured on a yacht surrounded by topless women.

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Britain fuels Iran tension as soldiers seize a tanker

by SIMON BASKETTER

THE BRITISH government's solution to growing tensions between the West and Iran was the seizure of an oil tanker off Gibraltar by Royal Marines last week.

Some 30 Marines from the 42 Commando unit took the tanker off the crew, from India, Pakistan and Ukraine, who were then questioned in Gibraltar.

The messages coming from Britain are as chaotic and contradictory as everything else coming from the top of the Tory party.

Foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt said there could be "very serious consequences" for Iran after it announced it will raise production of uranium beyond a limit set in a 2015 agreement.

The more frequent message from Britain has been the need to maintain relations with Iran and save the nuclear deal Donald Trump wants to end.

Sanctions

Britain, along with France and Germany, has set up a payment mechanism for companies to keep trading with Iran in the face of US sanctions.

Then at the US's request Hunt sent in the marines to take over a tanker that probably wasn't in breach of its sanctions anyway.

Hunt's Tory leadership rival Boris Johnson wasn't allowed to see secret documents from his own government when he was foreign secretary, as his colleagues considered him unreliable.

John Bolton, US national security adviser and advocate of regime change in Tehran, tweeted, "Excellent news: UK has detained the super-tanker Grace 1 laden with Iranian oil bound for Syria in violation of EU sanctions."



A ROYAL Marine on board the vessel

"America and our allies will continue to prevent regimes in Tehran and Damascus from profiting off this illicit trade."

Except that probably isn't true.

The tanker had begun its voyage in Iran and travelled around Africa.

If it had been travelling to Syria it could have taken a far quicker route into the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal. Its actual course took it two and half months.

Tensions have been escalating between the US and Iran since May 2018. Trump announced the US was withdrawing from a nuclear agreement with Iran and would reimpose

sanctions on the regime. The US has blamed Iran for a series of recent attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. Iran shot down a US drone.

The only confirmed culprit of an attack on an oil tanker is Britain.

Last month Trump made a last-minute decision to call off air strikes.

Britain's ambassador to the US Kim Darroch described disarray and confusion across Washington as Trump unexpectedly aborted the attack.

He wrote that Trump's "claim, however, that he changed his mind because of 150 predicted casualties

doesn't stand up". He warned, "It's unlikely that US policy on Iran is going to become more coherent anytime soon."

Darroch warned that Trump could still trigger a conflict, noting that he is now "surrounded by a more hawkish group of advisers".

Unfortunately for the British government, whichever odious Tory becomes leader is likely to follow in whichever way Trump jumps.

What's your story?

Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Lies from Grenfell firms

SOME TWO years after the Grenfell Tower fire, companies are still trying to dodge the blame.

Celotex made the insulation used in Grenfell Tower cladding. But its parent company Saint-Gobain Corporation (SGC) said it should not be held accountable for people who died of "pre-existing medical conditions".

Lawyers instructed by Grenfell survivors and the bereaved have begun legal action against it alongside other firms.

The firm's legal defence documents read, "Claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent damages, if any, were the direct result of pre-existing medical conditions."

SGC also said that it had been "improperly named" in the legal action because it did not "design, market, manufacture, or sell" any of the products used on Grenfell Tower.

Labour MP Theresa Pearce slammed the firm for "trying to devalue a life to defend the indefensible".

The monthly Silent Walk to remember the people who died in the Grenfell Tower fire is this Sunday. For details, go to bit.ly/Grenfell125

IN BRIEF

Antisemitism in east London

SUPPORTERS OF Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) joined a protest on Monday in response to an antisemitic attack in Whitechapel, east London.

A racist threatened a Jewish man with a knife last week.

He called him a "fucking Jew," then pulled out a knife and chased him down the street.

The attacker screamed more antisemitic abuse, reportedly saying, "I'm going to kill you, I'm going to chop your head off."

Speakers at the protest in Altab Ali Park included deputy mayor of Tower Hamlets Asma Begum and Unison union local government branch secretary John McLoughlin.

Protest against Croydon attack

A PROTEST against attacks on Muslims was set to take place in south London on Thursday of this week.

It was called by Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) South London after news of a racist attack on Norbury High Street in Croydon last week.

SUTR South London said, "A young Muslim woman in a headscarf was driving along and stopped at the lights. Another car pulled up beside and a 60 year old man got out and approached the woman's car."

"She wound down her window thinking he was asking for directions."

"He started screaming racist abuse at her, leaned in and ripped her head scarf backwards off her head and then spat in her face."

"We will not let such horrific racist violence pass."

Socialist Worker

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Send 'start' to the number

IN THIS WEEK

2014

Protective Edge assault begins

Israel launched Operation Protective Edge, a deadly onslaught lasting seven weeks that murdered at least 2,100 Palestinians.

Airstrikes hammered the Gaza Strip while Israeli troops invaded. Mass demonstrations took place globally.



'We should be proud to stand up for Palestine'

Left wingers in the Labour Party are facing fresh accusations from the right this week, writes Nick Clark

THE LABOUR left faced another assault over allegations of antisemitism this week.

A BBC Panorama documentary by right wing hack John Ware, set to be shown on Wednesday, claimed Jeremy Corbyn's office interfered in party disciplinary investigations.

The documentary will bolster the right's campaign to expel Labour Party members accused of antisemitism whether they are guilty or not. Right wing MPs have repeatedly demanded expulsions before hearings have even taken place.

Some have demanded that left wing MP Chris Williamson be expelled for saying the leadership had given "too much ground" to claims it is antisemitic.

Deputy party leader Tom Watson demanded that Corbyn ban Williamson from sitting as a Labour MP. He hypocritically complained that Labour's disciplinary process "remains mired by the appearance of political interference".

He also tried to take control of disciplinary investigations earlier this year by "logging and monitoring all complaints" himself.

And in April last year Labour MPs threatened to revolt unless veteran anti-racist activist Marc Wadsworth was expelled. He had done nothing more than accuse MP Ruth Smeeth of cooperating with a right wing journalist.

Democracy

Speaking at the Marxism Festival organised by the Socialist Workers Party (see page 7) last Friday, Williamson suggested he had been targeted because he fought for democracy in the Labour Party.

His claim came as Labour MPs hit out at attempts by party members to hold them accountable.

Labour began the process of choosing its parliamentary candidates on Monday. Changes passed at Labour's conference last year mean it is easier for party members to replace sitting Labour MPs.

Right wingers are outraged at the idea that party members should

BACK STORY

The Labour right is using smears to undermine Jeremy Corbyn

● Right wingers are painting Corbyn and the Labour left as antisemitic and racist

● This is because of the left's support for Palestinians and its criticism of the Israeli state

● A BBC Panorama programme was set to unleash fresh allegations this week

● The best way to resist isn't to concede to the smears but to be proud to stand up for Palestine

have a say in who represents them.

But the accusations of antisemitism are also about silencing support for Palestine.

The right has fought to discredit the left by implying that its solidarity with the Palestinians makes it inclined towards antisemitic ideas.

After an onslaught on the left last year, Labour adopted a definition of antisemitism that rules out calling Israel a racist state.

Speaking at the Marxism Festival, one Labour member said, "A lot of youth members have said they don't want to come to meetings because they're getting accused of antisemitism when all they are saying is they want to accept Palestine."

"When we have meetings we are now not allowed to raise anything to do with Palestine. If we mention Palestine, the chair kicks us straight out of the meeting."

Israeli historian Ilan Pappé said that the best response is to "be proud" to keep talking about Palestine.

"I understand these campaigns of intimidation, I was a victim of it," he said. "You will not be able to challenge these people by apologising—by trying to satisfy them."



More online

Chris Williamson at Marxism
bit.ly/WilliamsonMarxism2019



JEREMY CORBYN has faced a sustained attack from right wingers

A long history of lies against the left

JOHN WARE, the journalist behind the Panorama documentary, has spent his career smearing the left, defending the right, and attacking Muslims.

In 1987 Ware reported for a Panorama documentary that tried to discredit former army intelligence officer Colin Wallace.

Wallace had exposed a "dirty tricks" campaign against Labour prime minister Howard Wilson.

Ware claimed Wallace was a fantasist. But as investigative journalist Paul Foot wrote, Ware's own report was riddled with obvious errors.

In 2015 Ware produced another Panorama documentary

on Corbyn's first leadership campaign that was little more than a hatchet job.

The documentary featured claims from a number of right wing Labour figures warning a Corbyn victory would lead to left wing "thuggery and intimidation".

And Ware has produced a number of films attacking Muslims and Palestinians.

One suggested that Palestinian charity Interpal funded terrorism. Others have targeted the Muslim Council of Britain and Muslim Engagement and Development (Mend).

His recent attacks on Mend accuse it of antisemitism due to its members' criticisms of Israel.



John Ware

FIGURE IT OUT

189 Palestinian protesters were killed by Israeli forces between 30 March and 19 November last year

31 of those protesters killed were children, while three were medical workers

37 people in Gaza were also killed by Israeli airstrikes over the same period, according to Human Rights Watch

Union leaders push for EU

LABOUR WAS set to back remaining in the racist neoliberal European Union (EU) as Socialist Worker went to press—thanks to trade union leaders.

Union leaders agreed that Labour should campaign to Remain in the EU while the Tories are in government.

It came after a right wing campaign to make Labour "the

party of Remain." The right wants Labour to back the EU because it supports its pro-big business, pro-privatisation and pro-austerity principles.

Union leaders said a Labour government should still negotiate a deal to leave the EU if elected.

But this would include a customs union—a promise that

protects bosses rather than workers.

Backing Remain would leave working class people who voted to Leave to racists such as Nigel Farage's Brexit Party.

Labour shouldn't back right wing versions of Leave or Remain—but fight for a left wing Brexit tied to defence of jobs, public services and migrants.

INTERNATIONAL

How can we strengthen the movement in Hong Kong?

THE MOVEMENT in Hong Kong against a law that would allow extraditions to China recently escalated.

On 1 July protesters stormed the Legislative Council (LegCo), Hong Kong's legislature.

Among them were shady individuals suspected of having been sent by the government.

But there were also genuinely courageous protesters.

The storming of the LegCo was not just aimless vandalism.

But as of early July, at least 71 people had been arrested, five charged with "participating in rioting".

The government has also pretended to be willing to have open dialogue with the people.

Protesters plan



PART OF a protest in Hong Kong last Sunday

PICTURE: STUDIO INCENDO/Flickr

wider protests. But the month-long leaderless and self-initiated mass movement has also reached a limit.

In my opinion, occupying the LegCo or other government buildings will give Lam the perfect excuse to slander the entire movement, and carry out a violent

crackdown.

Organising a coalition committee and employing a general strike and general walkout from schools would be a genuine escalation of the struggle.

Lam Chi Leung, revolutionary socialist based in Hong Kong

For a longer version go to bit.ly/HKLamChi

Racist police killing sparks angry protests across Israel

ETHIOPIAN Israelis rioted and protested last week after a cop shot and killed an unarmed teenager.

Protesters blocked roads and fought police across Israel, including in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and West Jerusalem after the killing of 19 year old Solomon Tekah.

An off duty police officer killed Solomon on 30 June. The killing ignited anger at



Protesters in Israel

the racism in Israeli society.

Organisers said they weren't just

angry about Solomon, but about "the next Solomon Tekah".

Ethiopian Israelis are Jewish refugees and their descendants who faced war and famine in Ethiopia.

Israel airlifted them out in the 1970s, 80s and 90s, saying their Jewish identity gave them the right to live in Israel.

But they have become victims of Israel's racism.

Strike wave sweeps Chile

A MASS strike wave in Chile has thrust the country's ruling class into a political crisis.

Some 80,000 teachers have been on strike for over a month, alongside other workers.

Tens of thousands have protested and fought the police.

Thousands of workers at the Walmart supermarket chain have voted for strikes to defend jobs.

Chile's government is on the extreme

right. The minister for education, Marcela Cubillos, is the daughter of one of former dictator Augusto Pinochet's ministers.

Teachers want more classroom resources and funding, as well as unpaid bonuses backdated to 1981 that amount to over £11 billion.

Workers at the Chuquicamata copper mine ended a 14-day strike over jobs at the end of last month.

Unions colluded with bosses and accepted a shoddy deal, despite workers voting against it.

Dockworkers in Valparaiso struck on Wednesday of last week to stop victimisation of people involved in a 36-day strike last December.

The movement points to a way forward as the various reformist projects referred to as the Pink Tide begin to retreat.

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

WE MUST RESIST THE RULE OF RACIST TORY TOFFS

TORY LEADERSHIP rivals Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt are competing to be the most racist, bigoted friend of the rich.

They know how to play to the tiny Tory party electorate, which will choose the next leader and prime minister.

A YouGov poll on Monday showed that 56 percent of Tory members see Islam as a threat to British values.

And 42 percent thought that people from different racial and cultural backgrounds have damaged British society.

Frontrunner Johnson knows his audience well.

At a local Tory association he said, "Too often there are parts of our country, parts of London and other cities, where English is not spoken by some people as their first language.

"And that needs to be changed."

Johnson has defended saying that Muslim women who wear the hijab look like "letter boxes" and "bank robbers".

The Tory leadership has been forced to suspend several more members over allegations of Islamophobia.

One member of the Boris Johnson Supporters Group said, "I would ban all Muslims from entering the whole of Great Britain."

The YouGov poll showed what all-round reactionaries the Tories are.

Some 58 percent wanted to bring back the death penalty for some crimes.

And 46 percent thought that concerns about climate change have been exaggerated.

Sections of the mainstream media are still trying to portray Jeremy Hunt as less rabidly right wing than Johnson.

Yet even Hunt has given up on this ploy.

For too long working class people have been left as spectators to the Tory crisis

He is a public school educated toff who fawns over Donald Trump.

He wants to further restrict a woman's right to choose and was at the forefront of moves to privatise the NHS.

Whichever one wins they will not be able to resolve the Tories' deep divisions over Brexit, with the date for leaving the EU looming on 31 October.

For too long working class people have been left as spectators to the Tory crisis through the inaction of the Labour Party and union leaders.

We need to start taking action for ourselves.

That's why it's positive that the People's Assembly has called a demonstration in London on 22 July, as the next Tory leader is announced.

And we should also march on the Tory party conference in Manchester on 29 September.

The global climate strike on 20 September has to be the key date for everyone.

Every socialist, trade unionist and worker needs to argue and organise for walkouts on the day.

The key thing is to deepen resistance to Tory rule.

ISRAEL HIDES ITS PAST

ISRAEL IS desperate to hide its bloody, racist history.

Israeli newspaper Haaretz revealed last week that Israel's defence ministry has been quietly hiding, removing and censoring documents for more than a decade.

Accounts of massacres and demolitions of Arab villages during Israel's foundation in 1948 mysteriously went missing.

They include accounts such as this, which describe the fate of Palestinian village Safsaf. "52 men

were caught, tied them to one another, dug a pit and shot them. Ten were still twitching. Women came, begged for mercy. Found bodies of six elderly men.

"There were 61 bodies. Three cases of rape, one east of Safed, girl of 14, four men shot and killed. From one they cut off his fingers with a knife to take the ring."

Palestinians were systematically expelled—ethnically cleansed—to ensure Israel had a Jewish ethnic majority. Historians such as Ilan

Pappe have documented this.

Haaretz said the former head of the Defence Ministry's security body acknowledged he launched the project to hide the documents.

He said the point was to "undermine the credibility of studies about the history of the refugee problem".

He also fears that uncovering the truth could lead to "unrest".

Israel wants to hide the truth about its past. It's our job to make sure they never make us forget.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 163 Summer 2019

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Paul Holborow on the Anti Nazi League
Anne Alexander on Algeria and Sudan
Alex Callinicos on the climate catastrophe

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ANALYSIS

CHARLIE KIMBER



Military keep control in Sudan stitch-up

OPPOSITION LEADERS in Sudan have agreed a rotten deal that falls far short of what is needed or possible.

For seven months millions of people have shown immense courage to win civilian rule and democracy.

The deal does not deliver this. It means effective military control for almost two years and no elections for more than three years.

It allows the military to regroup, end the mass protests and strikes, and then cement their rule.

The deal was agreed last Friday between the Transitional Military Council (TMC)—the armed forces controlling Sudan since Omar al-Bashir was deposed in April—and the Alliance for Freedom and Change (AFC).

Under its terms a new sovereign council will be established as the most important governing body. It will be made up of five military members and five civilians with an eleventh member decided mutually.

The council will rule the country by rotation between military and civilian leadership “for a period of three years or slightly more”.

The military would lead the sovereign council for the first 21 months, and a civilian would take over for the remaining 18 months—if the military haven’t abolished it by then.

There is supposed to be a “national committee of inquiry” into the massacre at the Khartoum sit-in on 3 June. But the military won’t allow any true accountability that reveals its direct responsibility for the bloodshed.

An AFC statement said, “What we have realised today is a gateway to the application and the realisation of the goals of the revolution. We will continue our road through a vast partnership with all the national forces that have not fallen in the mire of the oppression of the late regime of al-Bashir.”

Promises

That’s not how many people see it. Mohamed Ismail was part of a crowd discussing the deal in Khartoum’s al-Sahafa area. “We would like to see many more guarantees from the TMC because they’ve made many promises on handing over power only to backtrack later on,” he said.

Sudanese political commentator Kholood Khair said, “The first period looks like the military meaning to consolidate power and remain in power and just bide their time until they are able to leverage that to remain in control.”

Some of the armed groups that have been fighting the regime for many years rejected the deal. The Sudan Revolutionary Front said it would lead to a continuation of al-Bashir’s system and was just “old fish in a new pot”.

Another armed group said it was a “cheap bargain” and “a betrayal of the revolution and the blood of the martyrs”.

An early indication of the military’s intent came when opposition forces supporting the deal came onto the streets to celebrate.

According to Radio Dabanga, members of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) used live bullets and tear gas against people celebrating the agreement.

One of the most worrying signs is that TMC deputy head General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo welcomed the deal. This blood-soaked gangster will not allow any concessions to real democracy.

Historian of Africa and Darfur Gerard Prunier said the deal was “buying time on the part of the military” and fitted in with the demands of reactionary outside forces.

Prunier told the France 24 news channel that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were making “suggestions backed up by cash” which fitted with the interests of the TMC.

AFC leaders say they will keep up engagement with the masses through mass meetings and forums and maintain pressure on the military.

But that is empty talk now the mass protests and strikes are called off.

Those involved in the courageous and inspirational revolt in Sudan deserve much better than this deal. The TMC has to be defeated, not bargained with and allowed to remain in control.



THE RIVER Irwell where Shukri Yahya Abdi (below) drowned

Demands for investigation into the death of schoolgirl

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

HUNDREDS OF people have joined protests to demand answers over the drowning of a Muslim school student in Bury, Greater Manchester.

Over 200 protested outside Broad Oak School, where Shukri Yahya Abdi was a pupil, on Friday and Saturday of last week. A solidarity protest took place in Birmingham—and further ones are planned in Bristol and London.

The protest was called because the family of Shukri, aged 12, reject the police’s statement about her death in the River Irwell earlier this month. Greater Manchester Police said that “there are not believed to be any suspicious circumstances at this time”.

The family is demanding a proper investigation by the police.

Mustafa Omar Mohamed, Shukri’s cousin, told the 5 Pillars news website, “We don’t believe it was an accident.

“We believe there is more to this story and we don’t believe we are getting the answers and support we deserve from the police and the school.”

The family said that Shukri was being badly bullied at school and would not have gone so far away from home.

Mustafa said, “We know

that Shukri was being bullied—and so do the school and the police.

“I don’t know why she was being bullied but she was a timid, scared, vulnerable girl so she was an easy target.

“Her mum went to the school to report it and was even in the process of taking her out of the school.”

He added, “What we want from the police and the school is a proper investigation.

“We want them to be fully honest about everything that led up to this incident and we don’t feel that we’re



getting this cooperation at the moment.”

Shukri and her mother came to Britain a few years ago as refugees from Somalia, east Africa. Her mother, Zamzam Canab Ture, said she was being “denied the truth” and demanded, “If the rights we came to the country for exist, I want something done.”

Anti-racists have raised concerns about the investigation.

Witnessed

Campaigner Maz Saleem posted on Facebook that “the same group of culprits tried to push Shukri into traffic the week before”. She alleged, “A fisherman witnessed the incident. He saw Shukri being dragged by her neck and her hijab by four pupils from Broad Oak school.

“He gave a statement but the police dismissed him as being drunk. His wife said she would never allow him to fish if he was drunk.”

Over 40,000 people have signed an online petition calling for answers since it was launched. The backlash forced the school to open an investigation into the family’s concerns that Shukri was being bullied.

An inquest is to due to open next week.

Nazi guilty of contempt

NAZI TOMMY Robinson was found in contempt of court last week for “aggressively confronting and filming defendants” outside a court in Leeds.

Robinson live-streamed footage of defendants accused of sexual exploitation of young girls in breach of a reporting ban at court last May. He hoped to stir up racism.

The decision by High Court judges came at the end of a two-day trial at the Old

Bailey in London. Up to 300 of Robinson’s supporters rallied outside the court on the first day of the trial.

He is set to be sentenced on Thursday. Contempt of court carries a maximum sentence of two years in prison.

The far right could seek to regroup around a campaign if he’s sent back to prison. Anti-racists should celebrate—and be ready to keep up the fight against the far right.



Guilty Robinson



Got a story?

Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Thousands of activists debate how to resist at Marxism 2019

The four-day festival of socialist ideas heard from people fighting back from around the world in meetings, workshops and cultural events, Socialist Worker journalists report

THOUSANDS OF campaigners came together in east London last weekend to discuss how to change the world. Marxism Festival 2019 took place as far right groups gain influence and mainstream parties face crisis.

Student Khai said that Marxism “tells the truth that the establishment don’t want us to hear”. Extinction Rebellion member Joseph described it as a “great weekend and fantastic opportunity”.

“We need to bring people round to ideas that matter,” he said. “We all need to take action to save our planet.”

The climate crisis was a major theme as was Brexit, the Labour Party and the fight against racism. School climate strikers, Extinction Rebellion activists and others discussed what kind of action can be taken to stop climate catastrophe.

Author Ian Angus described the fight for the planet as “the most important struggle of our time”. “Capitalism has driven us to a crisis point,” he said. “If ‘business as usual’ continues, major ecological collapse is not possible, but probable.”

Welcomed

Suspended Labour MP Chris Williamson was warmly welcomed as he spoke to over 700 people in a meeting on Corbynism and the future of politics.

Other meetings ranged from discussing Karl Marx’s Capital to knife crime, drugs and gangs. A panel of artists spoke at a meeting on the demonisation of drill and grime music.

Sheila Coleman from the Hillsborough Justice Campaign spoke at a meeting debating the usefulness of inquiries and inquests in fights for justice. She warned



HUNDREDS OF people cheered suspended Labour MP Chris Williamson

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

against people in justice campaigns being “co-opted by the state”. “It’s so important we look to each other and stay strong,” she said.

Marcia Rigg, whose brother Sean died in police custody, spoke at a meeting on institutional racism and also at the festival’s closing rally.

In a meeting on trans resistance and socialism, author Laura Miles argued for an understanding of gender identity as existing on a spectrum. In another session Alex Callinicos and Costas Lapavistas put forward the left case against the European Union.

Marxism this year saw far more workshops than in previous events. These saw people break up into group discussions. SWP member Jasmine led off a wide-ranging

discussion on what socialism would look like.

She said, “Movements are challenging the way the system is being organised and raising ideas about how society can be run.”

One Labour member asked what we could do about working class people who have right wing ideas. A student asked how revolutionary socialists could tackle the police and military.

Marxism is an international festival that attracts people from different political backgrounds. An attendee from South Korea said she was “drawn to Marxism because it opens up debates about solidarity and action”.

A session on how trade unions can fight austerity saw some discussion

on whether national strikes are possible. Activists argued that the 50 percent turnout requirement in strike ballots can be overcome.

PCS union member Candy said, “We’ve got to win an argument that we can fight nationally. Rebuilding organisation in our workplaces is the key.”

A key message from Marxism was that union members must fight to take action on 20 September, the day of a global climate strike.

Michael Bradley from the SWP told the opening rally, “The school students have been an absolute inspiration.”

“But if you’re waiting for someone to repeal the trade union laws before you can take action, that’s a joke.”

‘It makes sense for climate activists to learn about capitalism’

“Karl Marx provides a really good criticism of capitalism, which is a cause of climate change.”

“So it makes sense for me as a climate activist to learn about capitalism. I’ve really liked how there have been people from all sorts of backgrounds here. It’s inspiring.”

Alom, Birmingham



“I came to Marxism because I think the most important thing is engaging the youth. We all want a Jeremy Corbyn government. I feel more solidarity here than in some other places.”

Ryan



“I like how we’ve been encouraged to discuss things with strangers. If you’re coming here on your own it helps you branch out.”

“I came here because

I wanted to get a more robust understanding. I feel like I’ve done that.”

Christine

“The session on race, class and identity was really excellent. My experiences of racism when I first arrived in Britain mirror what the speaker was saying.”

“There is a need for unity against the right, which is on the rise at the moment.”

Ananya



“I enjoyed the session on Why do Schools Fail Black Children? Everyone in the room was very passionate and had ideas about what to do to combat the problem.”

Aleesha

‘The festival made me want to be politically organised’

“This is the first time I’ve been to Marxism. There are all these topics covered, but I’m particularly interested in unions and how we might organise workers who traditionally are not active.”

“We’re all waiting to see what happens with Brexit and whether there will be another general election.”

“I would like to see Jeremy Corbyn elected, but we need to be clearer about how that’s going to happen.”

Raba



“This is the first Marxism Festival I’ve been to, and I’ve just joined the Socialist Workers Party (SWP).”

“I see myself as naturally a socialist, but I had never considered becoming organised. I got involved in politics through anti-racism, then seeing how involved the SWP was made me come.”

“It’s been good to see how many people are involved outside of my area and the wide range of ideas.”

Sarah



Greek Tories win majority after years of Syriza party betrayals

The formerly radical party lost because it implemented austerity and racism, argues Nick Clark

GREECE'S ONCE-RADICAL left wing party Syriza was booted out of government in elections on Sunday—after four years of enforcing austerity and racism.

Tory party New Democracy won with an outright majority, just four years after being thrown out by an insurgent Syriza on a radical programme.

The result should be a dire warning to left wing parties hoping to follow in Syriza's footsteps.

After conceding defeat on Sunday, Syriza leader and former prime minister Alexis Tsipras said the party would "protect the rights of working people with a responsible but dynamic opposition".

It was a long way from his promises in 2015 to end austerity and the rule of the "Troika"—the European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Syriza was defeated because it betrayed those promises.

Caused

It was elected after nearly five years of devastating austerity that made ordinary people pay for an economic crisis caused by bankers.

"Memorandums" agreed between Greek governments and the Troika "bailed out" the Greek banks. They demanded cuts to public services and workers' pay and pensions, along with huge privatisation.

Resistance to that austerity involved mass protests, riots—and 32 general strikes since 2010.

Syriza was associated with that



New Democracy leader
Kyriakos Mitsotakis

movement. But it said the best way to end austerity was by getting elected. That meant trying to work "tactically" within the system rather than challenging it.

And crucially it meant trying to negotiate a way out of austerity with the Troika.

As soon as Syriza was elected the Troika demanded that Greece accept a third bailout loan—complete with austerity conditions.

It wanted to make an example of Syriza for daring to challenge austerity. It piled economic pressure onto the party, including cutting off support for Greece's banks.

Accepted

Syriza climbed down and accepted the new bailout, but held a referendum on the terms of the deal. Ordinary people rejected it with a big "No" vote in July 2015. But Syriza saw the vote as little more than a bargaining chip.

The government could have used this collective political strength to hit back at the Troika. It could have made the decision to exit the EU and refuse to pay.

But it chose to play by the Troika's rules, implementing an even worse austerity plan than the one voters had rejected.

The Syriza government supported the US's warmongering in the Middle East and Mediterranean. And it enforced EU border controls, locking up refugees in squalid camps on Greek islands.

Syriza was transformed from a party that promised to challenge the system into one that defended it.



NOWHERE TO hide for Alexis Tsipras and his Syriza party after disastrous election result

Golden Dawn Nazis crash and burn as the radical left makes electoral gains

THE NAZIS of the Golden Dawn party were finally booted out of the Greek parliament. Its first MPs were elected in 2012.

At its height Golden Dawn had 21 MPs and organised a terrifying street movement that carried out murderous attacks on migrants and the left.

Now it has none—and its leading figures face jail sentences over the murder of anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas. But far right party Greek Solution, led by Kyriakos Velopoulos, entered parliament for the first time with 10 seats.

The anti-fascist Keerfa organisation said Golden Dawn's defeat is "a great victory for the massive, unified, persistent, long-lasting and systematic action of thousands of militants of the anti-fascist and anti-racist movement".

"That led the neo-Nazis to complete isolation in the neighbourhoods all over the country," it said. "But we have to stress that there can be no complacency because we are not



Bye bye Nazi—leader of Golden Dawn Nikos Michaloliakos

done with the fascist threat.

"We are not finished with Golden Dawn, nor with the Velopoulos who snuck into parliament. But we are confident that we can smash them with a mass movement."

In terms of results for the left, the Communist Party of Greece stayed in parliament with 5 percent of the vote and 15 MPs.

The European Realistic Disobedience Front—a party formed by former Syriza financial minister Yannis Varoufakis—entered parliament for the first time with just over 3 percent.

The anti-capitalist Antarsya, which the Greek Socialist Workers Party (Sek) is part of, got 0.41 percent of the vote. This is more than Popular Unity—a split from Syriza—which got 0.28. But it shows there's a lot of work to be done to build an alternative to Syriza rooted in struggle.

A statement by Sek said activists had to focus on building united resistance to austerity and racism.

"We need to unite the class against the return of the right, to open the way to the anti-capitalist alternative," it said.

Possibilities for resistance?

TURNOUT IN last Sunday's election was just 57 percent—one of the lowest in years.

It's a sign that after years of austerity many working class people feel there is no one to represent them in mainstream politics.

But the Tory government won't find being back in office easy.

New Tory prime minister, former banker Kyriakos Mitsotakis, had to promise "growth, jobs and security" in

his victory speech.

Yet the European Union still demands harsh austerity from Greece until its debts are repaid—in 2060.

Workers in Greece continue to resist with strikes against privatisation and job cuts, and demanding better pay and more jobs.

The election of a Tory government could open up space for a new wave of resistance on the streets and in the workplaces.

Thirst for socialism

I WAS privileged to speak at a Social Change from Below conference at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa last month.

There were radical research students from many parts of Africa, Europe and Asia, as well as of course South Africa.

But there were also activists from townships and informal shack settlements.

Ronnie Kasrils, former ANC government minister and Communist Party leader, and today radical independent leftist, and Trevor Ngwane, highly respected revolutionary socialist, opened the proceedings.

It included a comradely but robust exchange over the role of armed struggle in defeating apartheid.

Professor Kate Alexander, conference organiser, closed it with an extraordinary and uncompromising one-hour speech. She spoke on the history of revolutionary workers' movements.

I had discussions with the young organiser of a branch of the newly founded Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party formed on an informal shack settlement.

I also spoke with the student campus organiser of the Economic Freedom Fighters.

Not only did he insist he was also a Marxist, he quizzed me in detail on Brexit and what was the revolutionary socialist "line"!

He told me anti-imperialists everywhere will be cheering the break-up of Britain.

John Rose
East London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Special education cuts are symptom of system in crisis

THE CLOSURE of Crossley Manor School (Socialist Worker, 3 July) is a symptom of a systemic crisis in provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (Send).

Years of chronic government underfunding for local authorities have left schools unable to provide support and training.

The Sats tests and GCSE results league tables leave school curriculums barren and largely irrelevant for Send pupils.

We are witnessing a tragic increase in levels of exclusions and children who refuse to go to school.

My own son has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy—a life

limiting severe condition with learning and behaviour problems.

He was voted head boy by his schoolmates. He struggled but got some GCSEs.

The school he went to in east London is now facing severe cuts to its autism provision, and trained support staff will lose jobs.

Parents like myself have to resort to massive fights for education health and care plans, and funding for vital teaching assistant support.

But more special schools or pupil referral units are not the answer to this crisis.

Special schools represent a state of social apartheid where young people are taught away from their

peers and often removed a long way from their local communities.

In the early 1970s legislation defined every child as able to be educated.

For the first time every young person was brought into the education system.

From then we began to bring all children into mainstream education.

There are still many brilliant examples of this working.

We have to focus our fight for mainstream inclusion, smaller class sizes, and a curriculum to meet the dreams, skills and aspirations for all our children.

Nick Caitlin
East London

Cough up over young workers' pensions

IT'S GREAT news that the Supreme Court has ruled against parts of the government's public sector pension plan.

It ruled that changes to pensions in 2015 discriminated against younger workers.

The changes meant that older members could stay on the existing favourable scheme while younger members had to transfer to a worse scheme.

As a result, they overpaid a whopping £2.4 billion.

The Tories should stop

dragging their feet and pay back overpayment to the four million public sector workers this affects.

Attacks on pensions represent an attack on the right to live with dignity later on in life.

And austerity is making life harder in so many different ways.

With some public sector workers relying on foodbanks to survive, it's time the cash-grabbing Tories coughed up.

Amy Hayes
Winchester

Don't back down from climate protests

OUR RIGHT to environmental protest took a hammering this week.

A judge at the High Court in Manchester found Katrina Lawrie, Christopher Wilson and Lee Walsh guilty of breaching an injunction at its Preston New Road (PNR) site.

A court in Blackpool had already decided they were not guilty of any criminal act when they locked themselves into tubing to slow progress at the site.

But Cuadrilla's injunction still stood. The company's profits



Criminalised for protests

clearly rank higher than criminal law.

This should show us the kind of clampdown we can expect as we fight catastrophic climate change.

The cops said after the

Extinction Rebellion blockades they want a focus on "lawful" rather than "peaceful" protest.

And police have been increasingly heavy handed with school climate strikers.

We won't back off, though—we're fighting for a future for ourselves and our kids.

So we have to think seriously about tactics.

Let's back brave activists like the PNR 3 with the power we have as workers and in mass action.

Kim Hunter and John Atkinson
Scarborough

Just a thought...

Don't bet on Boris Johnson

BORIS JOHNSON is having a laugh with his prediction that a no-deal Brexit is a "million-to-one" prospect.

Or maybe he just hasn't checked the bookies—some are offering odds of three to one.

It's likely he'll be our next prime minister.

But before he's even set foot in Number 10 I'm already sick to the back teeth of him.

Johnson or Jeremy Hunt—either way we need to get them out.

Janet Dyer
East London

Bring back NHS burseries

I'VE RECENTLY been in hospital for major surgery.

For me it highlighted how much student nurses contribute to the work of busy wards and how short the NHS is of staff.

It's a disgrace that student nurses should be forced into debt.

Bring back bursaries.

Sarah Cox
West London

Don't trust the police

BY MY calculations the undercover police inquiry has disclosed 19 spycops in the Socialist Workers Party.

Fifteen of them were in the 1970s or 1980s.

That's more than any other group—Vietnam Solidarity Campaign is second with six.

AR Spycatcher
On Twitter

How many Grenfells?

I'M DISGUSTED, but not surprised, that research has revealed that 95 percent of high rise social housing blocks are still without sprinklers.

Over two years since the horror of Grenfell Tower, how many more working class people will have to die before the housing bosses take note?

The report by the Labour Party highlights the fear residents have to face every day in their homes.

Pressure needs to be piled on the Tories to retrofit all buildings with sprinklers so there are no more Grenfells.

Rachel Wood
Ipswich

TAKING ON THE STATE TO SAVE REFUGEES

Spanish firefighter Miguel Roldan faces 20 years in jail for helping to rescue desperate refugees who would otherwise have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea. He spoke to Nick Clark about why states are going to war on migrants—and what we can do about it

What led you to volunteer to help refugees?

I became a firefighter because I wanted to make a commitment to people. The most satisfying thing I can do is rescue someone in danger.

I volunteered in refugee camps in Lesbos in Greece in 2016, on ships rescuing refugees crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey. After the Lesbos route became more restricted due to a deal between the European Union and Turkey, the main route for refugees became across the Mediterranean from Libya.

People that I knew from Lesbos sent me images of what had started to happen en masse in the Mediterranean. If what was happening in Lesbos was dramatic, what was happening on the route from Libya was ten times as bad. What is happening on the Libyan route is that, quite deliberately and quite literally, European governments are leaving tens of thousands of people to die.

Today they are even denying them the right to humanitarian aid. Not only are rescue ships being hindered and barred, but they are putting military vessels on the Mediterranean with the deliberate objective of returning refugees to Libya.

They know that Libya is not a safe place to return them to—yet they return them.

There are witness statements and records of people that say they would rather die than go back to



Libya. We are in a society of eyes that refuse to see and hearts that refuse to love. If there weren't NGOs and rescue ships trying to help these people and giving testimony, no one would know a thing about it.

When you went to help, did you know that you risked being arrested and going to prison?

When you make the decision to join a rescue ship you set aside any thought of the risk that you are running.

But I want to make it clear that in every situation we were in, we always followed international law and the rules of the sea—respected the norms. We never did anything that was illegal under any law.

We have to await permission to rescue someone. We've followed the rules to the extent that we've had to sit and watch people die.

If governments know what people face in Libya, why do they still send people back there?

In my opinion, the only thing that capitalist society and capitalist governments care about is money and profit, to the exclusion of any consideration of human beings.

When money comes before humanity, it's not possible to argue reasonably against that logic.

Rich countries are ripping off poor countries for their natural resources. They create a world that produces wars and famine, which kill millions. And when they've done this—deprived people of their means to live—they take away even

DAANGEROUS WATERS

Italian far right locks migrants out

ITALY WAS always at the forefront of the European Union's war on refugees. But the Italian elections last year ended with Matteo Salvini—leader of the far right League party—in charge of immigration as interior minister.

Since then Italian ports have denied entry to refugee rescue ships, often leaving them stranded at sea.

On one ship—the Aquarius—629 refugees were locked out when Italy denied it permission to dock last year.

Salvini has also overseen mass evictions from refugee camps. Hundreds of refugees have been kicked out of camps and left on the streets.

Libyan hell created by the EU

A European Union (EU) racist border policy is responsible for the existence of 21st century

slavery and torture in Libya. And on top of that refugees now face bombing too.

At least 44 refugees were killed in an air raid on a migrant prison camp in Libya last week, and more than 130 were severely injured. Most were migrants from sub-Saharan Africa trying to reach Europe.

Refugee prison camps—the face of a deal between the EU and the Libyan coastguard—hold thousands of people who have tried to reach Europe.

Many have been forced to attempt travel through Libya because the EU border force has shut off shorter or safer routes.

Footage released by Channel 4 news this year showed people in the camps being whipped, beaten and tortured with molten plastic while guns were held to their heads.

Refugees who have been caught or are trying to evade the border police are forced into the arms of people traffickers and slave traders.

Footage released in 2017 showed black men being sold at auction in Libya for the equivalent of a few hundred pounds.



Italian League party boss Matteo Salvini



MAIN PICTURE: Refugees enroute to Europe from Libya struggle with a capsizing boat (above, top) Vessel from the German group Jugend Rettet that Miguel works with (above) Refugees have been stuck in EU camps on the Greek island of Lesbos for years (below) Firefighters in Britain's FBU union join protests in support of Miguel

Picture: Guy Smallman

EUROPEAN UNION

Border guards masquerading as lifeguards

THE HORRORS Miguel has witnessed—and the jail threat he faces—are the grim face of a racist policy central to the European Union (EU).

For more than 20 years, EU border laws have shut out migrants from Europe—and led to the drowning of tens of thousands of refugees.

The flipside of the Schengen Agreement—the deal that opened borders between European countries—was Fortress Europe. It's a system of border controls, policing and physical barriers created a hostile environment designed to stop migrants from outside Europe from getting in.

The result is that refugees fleeing war, poverty, violence and climate catastrophe have been forced to attempt dangerous sea crossings on overcrowded boats.

The EU's response was to implement ever more brutal ways of "toughening" up its borders. The climate of anti-migrant racism EU politicians encouraged to justify these spurred the growth of far right, racist parties that take the scapegoating even further.

And as that vicious circle of racism spirals out of control, the people caught in the centre of it die in their thousands every year.

Surveillance

The number of migrants drowning in the Mediterranean Sea rose drastically after the launch of one EU border policy in 2014.

Operation Triton—run by EU border force Frontex—was sold as by some politicians as a search and rescue mission. Its real mission was "border control and surveillance". The idea was to try and push back migrants, many of them refugees fleeing civil wars in Syria and Libya.

Nevertheless, just under one million refugees entered Europe in 2015, the following year. So the EU signed a deal with Turkey that said refugees arriving by sea to Greek islands would be locked up, then sent back.

That deal was signed in 2016—the year the crisis reached its most dreadful peak. The United Nations' refugee agency UNHCR said as many as 5,096 people died or went missing in the Mediterranean that year.

The EU's response was to give Frontex more powers—and more weapons. After Frontex chief Fabrice Leggeri called for detention camps and thousands more border guards, the EU paid for new "reception centres" at migration "hotspots". Refugees were taken there, fingerprinted, then deported or left to languish.

More recently the EU has agreed to increase the number of Frontex border guards from 1,500 to 10,000 by 2027. It has also given them more powers to carry and use guns.

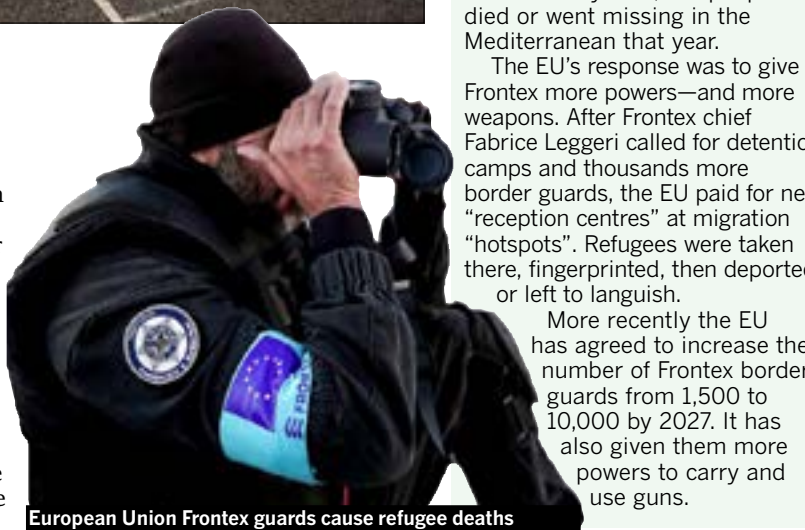


from. We have to convince people that there's a different perspective available.

And what can we do about the governments that are trying to push refugees back into Libya?

I'd like to take the Italian interior minister Matteo Salvini with me on a rescue ship for 24 hours just to see the real situation—the consequences of his policies. I'm convinced he'd change his mind.

We've got to act now. This is not about long term, short term or medium term plans. We're in a situation where action has got to be taken—now this minute—to change this world from the way that it is.



European Union Frontex guards cause refugee deaths

the possibility of rescuing them when they flee.

We steal from them and impoverish them then leave them to die when they try to get to Europe. When they try to escape their situation, we sentence them to death.

I always say that sooner or later, there's going to be a payback for everything that we're doing.

When you look at historical moments such as the period of the Nazis, people scratch their heads and wonder how that was allowed to happen.

I think in the future people will look back and ask how we allowed what's happening in the Mediterranean now.

But there are also people like you who want to help refugees. Have you had much support?

I do feel supported—I've had a lot of support for the situation I'm in. But I think the problem is that the people who support me are in a minority.

But people can get activated and motivated to change. And that's my hope.

What can people who want to help refugees do to change the situation?

We've got to put out an alternative vision of what's possible. In a spirit of dialogue, we have to put out a vision of a different world.

We've got to change the way that people think, but in a way that respects where people are coming

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

BLACK COUNTRY

Repression and resistance — where next for the Sudanese revolution?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.15pm,
St. Peter's Cafe,
4 Exchange St,
WV1 1TS

PORTSMOUTH

60 years on from the revolution — where is Cuba going?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Somersetown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Is a robot after your job?

Mon 22 Jul, 6pm,
The Snug,
Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNSELEY

Too many people? The myth of overpopulation and climate change

Thu 18 Jul, 7pm,
Room 302 — The Civic,
Hanson St,
S70 2HZ

BIRMINGHAM

Sex and sexuality in the era of Love Island

Wed 17 Jul, 7pm,
The Church at Carrs Lane,
Carrs Ln, B4 7SX

BOLTON

China in revolt — 30 years since Tiananmen Square

Wed 24 Jul, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Sudan and Algeria — resistance, revolt and revolution

Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane,
BD5 0BQ

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

What would a socialist society look like?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

COVENTRY

Do we need violence to achieve real change?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Golden Cross,
8 Hay Ln,
CV1 5RF

EDINBURGH

Trump, Bernie Sanders and the new left in the US

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

EXETER

Trump and imperialism — could he start a war with Iran?

Wed 17 Jul, 7pm,
The Exeter peace shop,
31 New Bridge St,
EX4 3AH

GLASGOW

Revolt, reformation and intrigue — the birth of capitalism

Thu 18 Jul, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City,
G1 5QT

HUDDERSFIELD

China in revolt — 30 years since Tiananmen Square

Wed 17 Jul, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade,
HD1 5JP

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



MELANIA GEYMONAT (right) and Chris, after being attacked on a bus in London last month

50 years since Stonewall...

Why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

BRISTOL

Thu 18 Jul, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

CHESTERFIELD

Thu 18 Jul, 7pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

Thu 25 Jul, 8pm,
Oyster Room, Hythe Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive,
CO1 2FG

DERBY

Thu 18 Jul, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd (next to Britannia Mill),
DE22 3BL

DUNDEE

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

LONDON: SOUTH EAST

Wed 17 Jul, 7pm,
Deptford Lounge,
9 Giffin St,
SE8 4RH

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Too many people? The myth of overpopulation and climate change

Thu 18 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Ln,
LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Is our diet destroying the planet?

Thu 18 Jul, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Sq,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests — what is the role of the police?

Thu 18 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
22 School Ln,
L1 3BT

LONDON: HACKNEY

Why we say 'general election now'

Thu 18 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

Trump and imperialism — could he start a war with Iran?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON: KINGSTON

Music and the politics of resistance

Thu 25 Jul, 6.30pm,
Kingston Quaker Centre,
Fairfield East,
KT1 2PT

LONDON: NEWHAM

Germany — neoliberalism, resistance and the far right

Wed 17 Jul, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTH

Can we build a sustainable, socialist society?

Wed 17 Jul, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,
facing Windrush Square),
Brixton, SW2 1EP

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Trump and imperialism — could he start a war with Iran?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St,
E2 7EG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

What would a socialist society look like?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow,
E17 6QQ

LONDON: WEST & NORTHWEST

Too many people? The myth of overpopulation and climate change

Thu 18 Jul, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush, W12 7DZ

LUTON

Trump and imperialism — could he start a war with Iran?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Stockwood Hotel,
41-43 Stockwood Cres (enter
via London Rd car park),
LU1 3SS

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

What would a revolution look like?

Wed 17 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

NEWCASTLE

Sudan and Algeria — resistance, revolt and revolution

Wed 17 Jul, 7pm,
Floor 2 — Commercial
Union House,
39 Pilgrim St,
NE1 6QE

NORWICH

Engels — origins of the family

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Pl,
NR2 2SA

PORTSMOUTH

Too many people? The myth of overpopulation and climate change

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Somersetown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests — what is the role of the police?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Thu 18 Jul, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near
Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests — what is the role of the police?

Wed 17 Jul, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

SWANSEA

Why is capitalism addicted to plastic?

Thu 18 Jul, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

MILTON KEYNES

Booklaunch: Common Cause — with author Kate Hunter

Fri 19 Jul, 6pm,
Waterstones,
51-53 Silbury Blvd,
MK9 3AG

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Go to isj.org.uk

NATIONAL

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Demo at Tory conference,
Sat 29 Sep, 12 noon,
Oxford Road,
Manchester.
Called by People's Assembly

NATIONAL

Stand Up To Racism international conference

Sat 19 Oct, 10am
Central London
standuptoracism.org.uk

CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600

Email

enquires@swp.org.uk
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Ari Aster's over the top folk horror breaks new ground

Midsommar uses all the classic hallmarks of folk horror—but it also has an original touch. It's certainly not for the faint hearted, writes **Gabby Thorpe**

WRITER-DIRECTOR Ari Aster's horror *Midsommar* tells the story of Dani, a young woman in an unfulfilling relationship who is left reeling after a family bereavement.

She and her boyfriend Christian go on a thoroughly strange holiday with college friends. And things begin to go from bad to worse.

Stuck in a small commune in Sweden, Dani and Christian's relationship begins to unravel faster than ever.

As Christian's friends dismiss her, Dani becomes more and more absorbed by her surroundings.

The one person to reach out to Dani is Pelle, the friend who invited them to his homeland to celebrate solstice.

As they grow closer, his motives become more sinister.

Midsommar makes an important statement about trauma. Dani's isolation is a reminder about why support networks are so vital in recovery.

The isolated surroundings and bizarre inhabitants create a building sense of unease.

Secluded

Visually the film achieves a sense of vertigo. Winding shots add to the overall claustrophobic nature of visiting a secluded community.

The commune isn't just hidden away. It also gives off the classic folk horror vibe of being frozen in time.

Aster relies mostly on psychology to deliver his scares. But there are some moments of obscenely graphic violence.

Midsommar is certainly not for the faint hearted.

Many comparisons have been



THE FILM takes place in perpetual sunlight

made to the classic folk horror *The Wicker Man*, but some scenes are reminiscent of NBC's *Hannibal* and occult horror *Suspiria*.

While the film is undeniably grotesque in places, nature is interwoven with the violence. This makes a sometimes beautiful, and always startling contrast.

With *Midsommar*, Aster has created a nostalgic tribute to many

horror classics. But his overall aim was to challenge audiences' ideas about the genre.

Unlike traditional horror, all of the action takes place in perpetual sunlight.

And the beginning of the film is shot in dank lighting.

It creates a disconnect between what is happening on screen and what we would normally associate

with horror films. In this way Aster delivers something unusual. Despite all the folk horror tropes, *Midsommar* has an original touch.

What Ari Aster has created has the potential to set a benchmark for over the top horror. It's not for everyone, but it won't go under the radar.

Midsommar
Directed by Ari Aster
Out now

Kyle Craft's latest album leaves you with flat feeling

MUSIC

SHOWBOAT HONEY

By Kyle Craft
Released by Sub Pop
Out on 12 July

A GLAM rock album on a solid label like Sub Pop should deliver something that's good fun, musically compelling and—given the singer's self-professed love of Bob Dylan—lyrically engaging.

But as the Elton John biopic *Rocketman* scales box office heights, it's sad to say that Kyle brings nothing new to his craft.

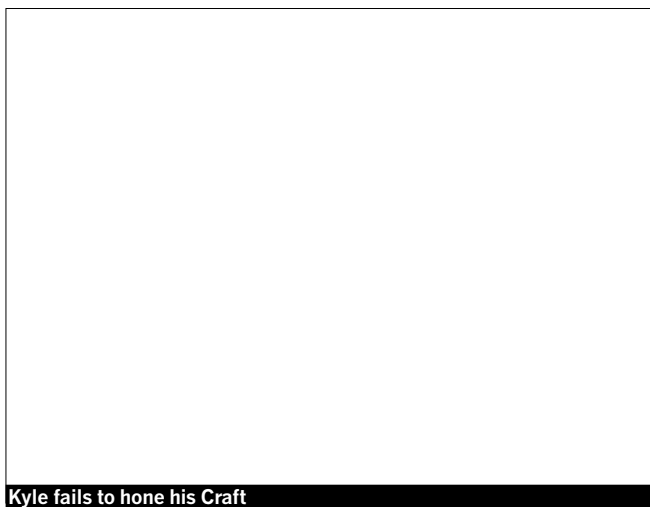
The album falls flat on every point—it's just very, very dull.

Craft has churned out three albums in as many years—and maybe that's showing.

"See you and me, we're suckers in a vampire town with deadbeat eyes and not enough blood to go round," is about as good as the lyrics get on album single *Deathwish Blue*.

And the album's not saved by its slick production either.

The more psychedelic *O Lucky Hand* is a welcome reprieve from



Kyle fails to hone his Craft

an otherwise monotone offering.

It's not like there aren't other bands out there doing this stuff—albeit almost entirely men—and they do it much better.

Craving

California's Foxygen, and young New Yorkers The Lemon Twigs both bring better music.

But if *Rocketman* has left you craving something a bit glam, then Ezra Furman is hard to beat. And Ezra has some kind of social conscience too.

OPERA

GRIMEBORN 2019

At Arcola Theatre, London, from 29 July
For details, go to arcolatheatre.com/grimeborn

THE GRIMEBORN festival is a series of short-run opera productions that are designed to challenge preconceived ideas about opera, including who it's for.

The festival includes bold new takes on classics such as *Don Giovanni*.

But it also focuses on



The festival turns ideas about opera on their head

original new shows such as *Aurora* and *Sane And Sound*.

EXHIBITION

AI—MORE THAN HUMAN

Barbican Art Gallery, London
Until 26 August

THE ENTIRE of the Barbican Centre has been taken over by AI—More than Human. The exhibition offers insights from artists, scientists and researchers on how technology could have an impact on daily life.

It features research projects by DeepMind, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Neri Oxman.

Also included are exhibits and installations from artists including Mario Klingemann, Massive Attack, Es Devlin and teamLab.

The exhibition uses interactive exhibits to explore the assumptions around AI, as well as the potential problems associated with it, and how culture is beginning to respond to it.

ART

PECHAKUCHA—TRANSFORMATIONS

Geffrye Museum of the Home, London, from 1 August

A PECHAKUCHA night is a series of individual presentations lasting six minutes and 40 seconds each. Performances range from the political to the personal.

PAKISTAN'S government has raised gas prices by 200 percent less than a year after it was elected promising to “eradicate poverty”.

It was the price for a £5 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

There could be no more fitting way to mark the 75th birthday of the IMF and World Bank this month.

The two institutions came out of the Bretton-Woods conferences in July 1944 and have been key to liberal capitalist order.

The IMF has been at the forefront of forcing free market shock therapy onto countries since the 1970s. It has championed capital's right to roam the world in search of profit, no matter the consequences.

And throughout its history it has been used by the US to project its power against rivals, allies and weaker countries.

When capitalist states run into a debt crisis, the IMF is supposed to act as a “lender of last resort” by providing a financial lifeline.

These bailouts always come with strings attached—and working class people are made to pay for the bankers' and bosses' mistakes.

Susan George, a leading figure in the anti-capitalist movement in the 2000s, described this process in The Lugano Report—on preserving capitalism in the 21st century.

“Heavily indebted countries have had little choice but to apply structural adjustments programmes devised by the Bank and the Fund,” she wrote. “Like it or not, dozens of these countries have liberalised their economies, privatised their state-owned companies, abolished exchange controls, increased their participation in world markets.”

Policies

The IMF's biggest bailout agreement, worth £57 billion, was with Argentina last June.

It is a textbook case of how the IMF uses debt crises—often caused by free market policies—to push through free market policies that shaft ordinary people.

The Argentinian economy effectively collapsed in 2001 under the pressure of a triple crisis of banking, sovereign debt and its currency.

The IMF had lavished the government with cheap loans as a reward for opening up the economy to multinational corporations.

A rising wave of resistance by workers and students saw a new social democratic government brought into office.

It implemented a package of reforms that reduced inequality and paid off all of previous IMF

debts. But it didn't fully break with free market economics or take on the power of the rich.

And it heavily relied on the “commodity boom”—a sharp rise in oil, gas, food and other fuel prices.

Crunch time came when the global financial crisis hit and the commodity boom ended in 2008.

As the situation spiralled, the IMF and the new right wing president saw an opportunity to push through free market reforms again. The impact has



Throughout its history the IMF has been used by the US to project its power

Christine Lagarde

People in Athens queue up for food handouts after IMF-imposed austerity bites hard

THE IMF—CAPITAL'S LOAN SHARK

The IMF celebrates its 75th birthday this month while billions around the world curse its name. **Tomáš Tengely-Evans** argues the system of poverty it promotes must be smashed

imperialism, the global system of competing capitalist states.

Voting rights on the IMF executive board are allocated on the basis of financial contributions.

The US has 16.52 percent of voting rights, closely followed by Japan, Germany and Britain.

In contrast one group of African countries led by Rwanda, which represents around 225 million people, has 1.62 percent of voting rights.

DAVISON Budhoo, a senior economist at the IMF, designed structural adjustment programmes for Latin America and Africa in the 1980s.

He admitted, “Everything we did from 1983 onward was based on our new sense of mission to have the south ‘privatised’ or die.

“Towards this end we ignominiously created economic bedlam in Latin America and Africa in 1983-88.”

One particularly damning example is Zambia. The World Bank and the IMF demanded cuts in public spending.

The results were brutal. In 1980 the infant mortality rate was 97 deaths for every 1000 births.

By 1999 it stood at 202 deaths for every 1000 births.

The structural adjustment programmes grew rapidly after the collapse of the Stalinist dictatorships in Russia and Eastern Europe.

And the US has also used it as a mechanism to force policies onto its allies.

The IMF played a devastating role in the Asian crisis of 1998 and more recently in Europe.

The IMF, the European Central Bank and European Commission—known as the “Troika”—forced through punishing austerity after bankers caused a crisis in Greece.

Christine Lagarde, the IMF managing director saw it as “payback” time for Greek and European countries. She said they should “help themselves collectively by paying their taxes”.

Misery

Lagarde pays no tax on her annual income of over £300,000. Now she is off to dole out more misery at the European Central Bank.

The IMF and World Bank have always been rotten.

Yet some left wingers, who are deeply hostile to “neoliberalism”, think it had the potential to be progressive at the beginning.

Naomi Klein, author of The Shock Doctrine—the Rise of Disaster Capitalism, wrote that the IMF and the World Bank “were given the explicit mandate to prevent future economic shocks and crashes like the one that had so destabilised Weimar Germany.”

been devastating. Inflation and unemployment have all increased sharply—while Gross Domestic Product (GDP) tumbled by 6 percent in the first four months of this year.

And, most starkly, the poverty rate has jumped from 27.3 percent before the bailout to 32 percent by the end of last year.

The IMF's policies towards Latin American countries shows one of its main purposes. It has reinforced the pecking order in

She argues that Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan were able to “harness these institutions for their own ends”.

Yet the problem goes much deeper. The Bretton Woods conference was part of the US mission to shape the world after the Second World War had ended.

It had ambitions to inherit the British Empire, in particular the oil fields of the Middle East.

And it was in pole position to do this as its economy had boomed while Europe's old imperial powers had been devastated.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s the US had pursued protectionist policies, such as taxing imports.

Sometimes they would devalue their currencies, which makes exports cheaper and imports more expensive, in order to compete with rivals.

After the war the Western allies didn't want to see a return to protectionism and open economic warfare among one another.

Rival

Some rulers pushed the need to unite behind US leadership to take on their new imperialist rival Stalinist Russia.

The Bretton Woods system saw countries agree to peg their currency to the dollar, which in turn was pegged to the price of gold.

The US would take charge of fixing the price of gold and the supply of dollars.

The IMF's 1950 report says, “In the period ahead the Fund will take an increasingly active role in encouraging the relaxation of exchange restrictions”.

While the IMF talked of a multilateral system, this was in fact a system that favoured the US because of the dollar's dominance.

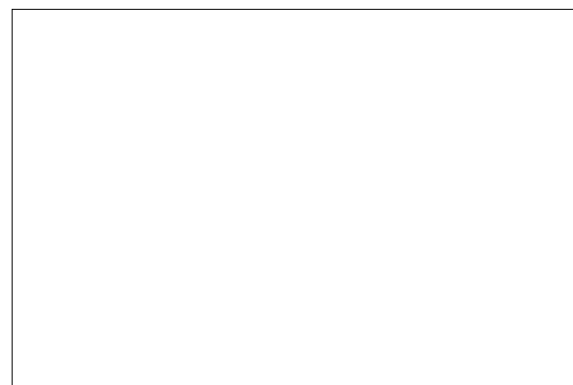
This was shown early on in the 1949 devaluation.

The US had agreed to loan money to the near bankrupt British state, but on condition that the dollar and pound could be traded without restrictions.

This depleted the British government's currency reserves, which are used to back exchange rate prices.

This weakened the British economy to the extent that by 1949 the US was demanding more benefits for US trade.

Stafford Cripps, chancellor in



Naomi Klein (top) thinks that institutions such as the IMF and World Bank went bad after Thatcher and Reagan got their hands on them. Yet Labour Chancellor in the 1940s Stafford Cripps (above) saw the real side of the organisation when it crowded over Labour's capitulation to the US in 1950

the 1945 Labour government, responded to this by giving in. He devalued the pound by an unprecedented 30 percent.

The Manchester Guardian newspaper reported, “The first effect of devaluation on prices at home is that the 4d. loaf will cost 6d. after about 14 days.”

Helped

It combined with the austerity drive with wage restraint and public spending cuts in Britain and internationally helped the US position.

A 1950 IMF report boasted, “The decision of the United Kingdom to devalue sterling was the signal for a general worldwide adjustment of exchange rates in relation to the U.S. dollar”.

By 1971 the US had become a debtor economy, so the fixed exchange rates no longer benefited its economy.

It ended the Bretton Woods system, but the IMF reinvented itself as a leading neoliberal institution.

The relative decline of US economic power has seen the IMF try to give some more power to rising powers such as China and reinvent itself again.

But no amount of structural adjustments to the IMF will make it work for the majority of people. It's time to scrap it.



READ MORE

● **Aid, governance and exploitation** by Charlie Kimber

● **10 reasons to protest against the IMF** bit.ly/AidGovEx

● **The Lugano Report** by Susan George

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



How the West is stealing millions from Libyan people

Simon Basketter looks at what the news that Britain is receiving cash from frozen assets shows about imperialism

AS THE regime of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya collapsed in 2011, the question of money exercised the global elite.

There were rumours of diamonds and gold bullion buried across the African continent. The truth involved money buried in banks and offshore scams.

Gaddafi used the country's oil wealth as a giant slush fund to pursue vanity projects and build Libya's influence.

That the West opposed, backed, then opposed the regime meant that much of this money drifted through the global financial system.

The oil industry and Western imperialism decided the pace of events.

From 2007 Britain courted Libya, so money flowed to British companies, banks and colleges.

That created trouble when alliances shifted. The British state rushed to turn allies into enemies and vice versa.

The spooks whisked Moussa Koussa, Libya's torturer-in-chief, out of the country for a BBC interview.

In February 2011 the United Nations (UN) Security Council passed an asset freeze on the regime that would apparently benefit the population.

The US trapped about £30 billion of Libyan assets. Britain grabbed £11 billion.

Secret

The British state considers what happens to frozen assets to be secret.

But last month it admitted, “HMRC receives payments of tax from a small proportion of the entities designated under the Libyan regime.

“Around £17 million has been received since the start of the 2016–17 tax year. HMRC receives around £5 million each year.”

The media noticed only the response from Northern Ireland's DUP party, which

TORTURER-IN-Chief Moussa Koussa looking respectable

demanding that the money went to victims of the IRA.

Britain isn't rushing to pay any relatives of those killed in the Troubles, especially by British soldiers or the death squads it backed.

While the state takes a cut, the frozen funds are generating tens of millions in interest for mystery beneficiaries.

Some £13 billion of the Libyan dictator's assets held in Belgium have big, regular outflows of stock dividends, bond income and interest payments.

It is almost certainly true that the funds go elsewhere. The interest goes to accounts belonging to the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA), founded in 2006 to invest Gaddafi's oil wealth.

It's not clear who runs the LIA or gets any of the funds.

Civil war means Libya is governed by rival factions. US president Donald Trump talked to a leader of a non-UN backed faction last month, creating panic.

There are two competing LIA chairs in Tripoli. UN sanctions targeted assets of

the Gaddafi regime, including about £60 billion of LIA's assets, primarily invested with banks and fund managers across Europe and North America.

However new money that goes to the LIA is apparently not subject to the freeze.

Strategic

Under Gaddafi, LIA bought assets in strategic firms, especially in Italy and Britain.

These included carmaker Fiat, football club Juventus, Royal Bank of Scotland and Pearson, the then publisher of the Financial Times newspaper.

LIA funds are locked in accounts managed by Euroclear, in Brussels.

In 2013 some £600 million went from the combined frozen assets around the world to the LIA.

It's not clear who's getting the interests from the billions. Euroclear documents show funds from these accounts were “released” to an HSBC account in Luxembourg belonging to LIA and to several other LIA accounts at the Arab Banking Corporation, in Bahrain.

No one is really saying who can access the LIA accounts. But the LIA fought an unsuccessful court battle with Goldman Sachs and agreed a £900 million settlement with Societe Generale.

What is clear is that not one penny of the money has gone to the Libyan people it was stolen from.

The asset freeze was lifted on Moussa Koussa in 2012, who now lives in Qatar.



Interest from LIA's billions is going to someone—it's not clear who

Safety questions after two railway deaths

TWO RAIL workers died last Wednesday after being struck by a Great Western Railway train on tracks near Port Talbot in South Wales.

Michael Lewis, aged 58 from North Cornelly, and Gareth Delbridge, aged 64, from Kenfig Hill, were hit by the Swansea to London train.

The RMT transport union has rightly called for all “similar works” to be suspended while the crash is investigated.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said, “This is shocking news. RMT is attempting to establish the full facts but our immediate reaction is that this is an appalling tragedy.

Reported

“No one working on the railway should be placed in the situation that has resulted in the deaths that have been reported this morning.

“As well as demanding answers from Network Rail, and a suspension of all similar works until the facts are established, the union will be supporting our members and their families at this time.”



THE SCENE on a section of track near Port Talbot

There are reports the victims were wearing ear defenders and could not hear the train approaching.

Reports also claim signal workers were unaware that workers were on the line.

One railway worker quoted by the Mirror website said, “The driver immediately

called in the accident saying he had struck the three workers and ambulances were called.

“A signal worker didn’t know that they were there. It could be that they hadn’t notified the right people.”

If that is true it will be about a system failure, not

the actions of a worker. The tragedy happened just three months after the Rail Accident Investigation Branch warned there were “too many near misses in which railway workers have had to jump for their lives”.

There was one death on the mainline railway and 6,641

injuries in 2018, of which 164 were major. A maintenance engineer who has worked on the same stretch of track where the two men were killed told newspapers, “It can be very dangerous.

“The rail gangs tend to come from the South Wales Valleys and Merthyr Tydfil areas. Lads can pick up a lot of money but it’s very risky work.

“It’s danger money.”

Wages

In other words, people from areas of low wages and high unemployment risk their lives to make ends meet.

Manuel Cortes, general secretary of the TSSA transport union, said, “There must now be a full investigation.

“It is simply not acceptable that in the 21st century people go out to work and end up losing their lives.”

In 2006 a privatised rail contractor was sentenced to nine years imprisonment for the manslaughter of four maintenance workers in Cumbria two years previously.

Colin Buckley, Darren Burgess, Chris Waters and Gary

Tindall died almost instantly after a runaway wagon.

The wagon, laden with 16 tonnes of steel rail track, ploughed into them at 40 miles per hour.

They were working on the West Coast Mainline. Boss Mark Connolly had deliberately dismantled the hydraulic brakes on two of his wagons to save money.

His co-accused, Roy Kennett, was sentenced to two years for manslaughter and breaching health and safety laws.

Bob Crow, who was then the RMT general secretary, said, “The railways’ safety culture has been systematically undermined by privatisation, and it is that basic faultline that must be repaired. Profit and safety do not mix—and the privateers must go.”

Questions will now be asked about whether similar factors had any connection with this week’s deaths.

People’s lives must always come before profit.

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Sick system is wrecking our health for profits

Author Lee Humber spoke to Tomáš Tengely-Evans about his new book on the rise in health inequality and how societies affect wellbeing

THE RECENT revelation that Tory cuts led to 130,000 preventable deaths has reignited a debate about health inequality. What does your new book say about what's behind it? The central message is that health is socially determined.

The dominant definition of health has been a “biomedical” one, which sees health mainly as the relationship between human biology and nature.

Of course natural diseases are part of the picture, but much more importantly health is a product of the societies we live in.

It's determined by the diet we have, by the sort of housing we live in and by our income. In the US poor diets directly contribute to around 678,000 deaths every year and the indirect contribution is not calculable.

IT workers in Hong Kong are running a campaign called 996 ICU. Their message is that if you work from 9am until 9pm for six days a week you end up in the intensive care unit.

The way that societies are organised shapes our health.

Why is neoliberalism important?

Healthcare is fast becoming a commodity.

The US privatised health service has been sold as the way to run health services across the world.



The NHS is a world leader and we have to defend it—but it could have been so much better

In Britain the impact of that has been the fragmentation of health and social services.

Since the 1990s and the rise of Tony Blair and New Labour, the direction of travel has been more private involvement in healthcare.

That's when Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) really took off across the NHS.

You had private companies build hospitals, then the NHS pay to rent the buildings.

That's since been extended to all sorts of health services, which have to be put out to tender.

And it's a similar story in social care. The “independent sector” grew from providing just 5 percent of services in 1993 to 89 percent by 2013.

This widens the health inequality gap, because some people can afford to go private and get the best health services.

Alongside private health provision growing, we've got an ever decreasing public health provision. A number of reports have said austerity is responsible.

One points out how life expectancy increased since the Second World War, but that increases in the US have now ended.

Life expectancy has also stopped improving in Britain and for some groups it has decreased.

YOU DESCRIBE the NHS as a revolution half-made. What does this mean?

Before the Second World War there was a widespread recognition that health provision in Britain was substandard.

It wasn't even good enough to ensure that British capital had a fit and healthy enough workforce.

A leading voice was the Socialist Medical Association (SMA), which tried to establish principles that a public health service should be based on.

It set out a vision of a national service that was “preventative as

well as curative” and which would tackle health inequality.

There would be local democracy, with health services provided in tandem with local authorities. And there would be a salaried doctoral staff, not one with private practice.

By the early 1930s the Labour Party had pinched the ideas and put them into its manifesto.

An Emergency Health Service (EHS), which was state-run, was set up at the beginning of the Second World War.

And it was a preventative, as well as curative service, as the government put in broader policies.

Food rationing, for instance, actually saw an improvement in diet for many people.

There was a much greater potential for the NHS when it was set up in 1948. But a lot of the old pre-war thinking then came back.

The Labour health minister, Aneurin Bevan, said he had to “stuff the doctors' mouths with gold” by letting them keep private practice.

The democratic and preventive elements were abandoned.

In some ways, it was a step back—the SMA talked about it as the “National Illness Service”.

The Labour government, with a big mandate and supported by a very active working class, didn't need to stuff anybody's mouths with gold.

The NHS is still a world leader in standards of provision—and we have to defend it—but it could have been so much better.

FACTORS SUCH as poverty, substandard homes and overwork have the biggest impact on health

WHEN DO genuine changes happen?

Science in general, but also medical science, tends to move along at a regular pace.

But there are periods when big developments happen. And these often coincide with great leaps forward in society generally.

One of the figures I look at in the book is Thomas Sydenham, an English doctor in the 1600s.

Sydenham thought that medicine could progress by monitoring therapies and patients, and he developed new treatments for diseases such as smallpox.

As the English Revolution of the 1640s tore the old society apart, it tore apart the ideas that had governed it. The French Revolution of 1789 saw huge changes in ideas about how the state can intervene in health.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 saw working class people briefly take political power. It points to



how social revolutions can throw open ideas as the old society is uprooted.

There were huge strides as resources were directed to health.

You can see that, whether it's health centres and spas for ordinary people or training workers from factories to deal with the shortage of doctors.

WHAT SORT of policies do we need to tackle health inequality?

If you follow a socially determined health approach, you need to address social problems that are causing poor health.

Any future society needs to address what's causing bad health. We'll need better diets, housing and working conditions that are good for health.

Yet, as I explain in the book, for the majority of people working under capitalism this means being “exploited”.

This describes a process where workers don't get back the full amount of the value they have created.

So exploitation, which is central to capitalist production, makes us ill. Through the process of being exploited, part of us is taken away and we don't have control over what we create.

We need to end the system of exploitation.

Vital Signs—the Deadly Cost of Health Inequality by Lee Humber is available from Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Ring 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

IN BRIEF

Workers have the power in Yorkshire

WORKERS AT the Drax power station in Selby, North Yorkshire, were set to begin a 48-hour strike on Sunday.

Unite and GMB union members there are fighting a 2.8 percent two-year pay deal for 2018 and 2019.

They plan to hold six 48-hour strikes, one every month until December, as part of the campaign.

New independence mood is in the Ayr

AROUND 13,000 people joined a march for independence in Ayr, south west Scotland, last Saturday.

It is the fourth in a series of demonstrations in the last few months organised by the All Under One Banner group.

Future marches include Campbeltown on 27 July and Aberdeen on 17 August.

These are all leading to a major event in Edinburgh on 5 October—which organisers hope will see 200,000 on the streets.

A victory to keep bleating on about

WORKERS AT Kentish Town Farm in north London are celebrating after the farm's board quit and handed control over to workers and their supporters.

Workers had led a campaign of protests and strikes over the board's threat of job cuts.

The news came after a mystery donor put up £100,000 on condition that the board quit.

Factory workers begin overtime ban

UNITE UNION members at a consumer goods plant in Derby were set to begin an overtime ban on Thursday.

Workers at Reckitt Benckiser are fighting "heavy handed" managers who want to make workers clock in for an extra 107 or 157 hours a year.

They voted by 74 percent for strikes and by 83 percent for industrial action short of a strike.

Workers should be prepared to step up the action unless bosses cave in.

Protest outside Loulou's club

WORKERS AT Loulou's private members club are keeping up their fight to be taken in-house.

They were set to protest outside the Mayfair club on Friday of this week.

It comes after the workers' IWGB union scored a victory against their bosses, the outsourcing firm Act.

Act had refused to reassure workers they would receive their annual bonus. But the threat of legal action forced them to back down.

EDUCATION



WORKERS REFUSE to give in to academisation plans

PICTURE: SAVE JOHN ROAN

Strikers at John Roan vow to keep up fight

by SADIE ROBINSON

WORKERS AT The John Roan School are refusing to give in to plans to turn their school into a privately-run academy.

NEU union members at the south east London school struck against the plan on Thursday of last week.

It was the 17th strike by workers to defend their community school.

They planned a further strike on Thursday of this week, and a two-day walkout from Tuesday of next week.

Parents, students and campaigners in the local area are backing the strikers. The

John Roan Resists group said, "John Roan teachers and parents cannot give up on their children's school."

"We have seen what happens at academies. We've seen Halley Academy, our nearest secondary, where almost all the support staff have been removed."

Support

"We've seen Brooklands, our nearby primary school, where support staff are being removed."

"Parents who are trying to stop this have been issued with legal letters. We won't give up. We can't give up."

Children's education is

too important to leave to politicians."

Labour-run Greenwich council voted to go ahead with academisation at a meeting last month.

Parents have branded the decision "disgraceful" and said that Labour must represent ordinary people if it wants their votes.

The United Learning Trust is set to take over officially from September. It has already axed classes for students and threatened job cuts.

●Join workers on the picket lines on 11, 16 and 17 July between 7.30am and 10am. Send messages of support to johnroannut@gmail.com

COLLEGES

Lively picket lines at Bradford college

UCU UNION members at Bradford College struck against 131 compulsory redundancies and low pay for three days last week.

Lively picket lines were supported by various UCU branches in the region.

Labour MP Imran Hussain, Labour councillor Richard Dunbar, UCU general secretary Jo Grady, and NEU union officer Ian Murch spoke at the picket lines.

Victimised trade unionist Dave Muritu told pickets how

a strike at his workplace, Sandwell College, had recently won a pay rise.

Lesley McGorrigan, Yorkshire and Humber UCU regional secretary

●Send messages of solidarity via Bradford College UCU branch secretary Geraint Evans gerainte.ucu@gmail.com

■A BALLOT for strikes to defend victimised union rep Dave Muritu was set to end on Friday of this week. The ballot involves UCU

union members at Sandwell College in the West Midlands.

Dave was sacked after writing the word "racist" on a Prevent poster. He is the branch secretary of the UCU at Sandwell College.

Prevent is a racist programme that targets Muslims and it is right to oppose it.

If bosses get away with sacking Dave, they will be more confident to target other union activists and anti-racists.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Defend Ruskin UCU reps

BOSSES ARE targeting three UCU reps at Ruskin College in Oxford in what the union is calling "trade union victimisation".

One rep, Lee Humber, was suspended earlier this year. The college plans to begin disciplinary investigations into two other reps.

The UCU said these investigations are into

their trade union duties and activities. Five UCU members, including the three reps, face redundancy. UCU members were set to hold an emergency general meeting this week.

■UNISON union members at Birmingham university were set to strike for the Living Wage on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

ANTI-ACADEMIES

Join march in Brighton to stop a school selloff scam

ANTI-ACADEMY campaigners have called a "March for Moulscroomb" in Brighton on Saturday.

School workers, parents and others are fighting to stop Moulscroomb Primary School from being turned into an academy.

There is widespread opposition to the plan.

GMB union members at the school have voted unanimously for strikes against it in indicative ballots.

NEU union members have also voted overwhelmingly for strikes, and Unison union members are balloting.

A school parent governor has resigned in protest and parents have set up the Hands off Moulscroomb Primary Campaign.

The Department for Education issued an academy

order after schools inspectorate Ofsted rated the school as inadequate.

Governor Warren Carter said the school had "been put on the naughty step for being poor, inclusive and for trying to do the right thing".

"Just because you are not academic doesn't mean you are stupid," he added.

Labour, Green and Tory councillors have all opposed the academy plan.

They voted last month for a ballot of parents and carers at the school on whether they support or oppose the school becoming an academy.

●March for Moulscroomb—Saturday 13 July, assemble 10am, Moulscroomb Primary School, The Highway, Brighton BN2 4PA. Sign the petition at bit.ly/moulscroomb

PEACEHAVEN SCHOOL



A lobby of East Sussex County Council last week

School workers walk out to teach Tories a lesson

WORKERS AT Peacehaven Community School (PCS) struck on Thursday of last week. It marked the NEU union members' tenth day of action as part of their ongoing campaign to stop their school becoming a privately-run academy.

Over 30 teachers assembled outside the East Sussex County Council offices to vent their wrath at the Tory administration. They were

joined by teachers and parents, who raised fears of an exodus of teachers if Swale Academy Trust takes over the school.

The strikers were very upbeat and were joined by parents and students.

And before dispersing teachers held a mass meeting which discussed when to hold their next set of strike days, most likely at the beginning of the autumn term.

Steve Guy

SCHOOLS ROUND-UP

WORKERS AT Roe Green Strathcona school in west London were set to strike on Wednesday. It will be the NEU union members' second walkout in their battle to stop the closure of the school.

Labour-run Brent council has begun a formal consultation on the plan.

It's first "informal" consultation saw 99.4 percent of respondents oppose the closure.

■NEU UNION members at Ilford County High School in east London began a two-day strike on Tuesday. Cuts have

led to bigger class sizes and workloads.

NEU rep Venda said, "We are not prepared to see our members driven into the ground, nor see children's education suffer."

■GMB and Unison union members at five Plymouth schools struck on Tuesday of this week against a 1 percent pay offer.

The action hit Woodford, Chaddlewood, Glen Park, Boringdon and Plympton St Maurice primary schools—members of the Plym Academy Trust.

SCHOOLS TRANSPORT

Blockade of driver depot

STRIKING SCHOOL drivers and assistants for disabled children in Hackney, east London, blockaded the entrance to the depot last Thursday.

This is a significant increase in the response by the Unite union members in their fight for a £50 payment over split shifts.

Gareth Jenkins

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

Civil service workers cue up new strikes

by NICK CLARK

ACTION BY outsourced workers at government departments is spreading.

Cleaners at HMRC tax offices in Bootle and Liverpool were set to strike next week. The members of the PCS union are demanding that bosses at outsourcing company ISS pay them at least £10 an hour.

Their strike, on Monday and Tuesday of next week, is the latest in a growing string of disputes by outsourced workers in the civil service.

Workers at the central London office of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Beis) were also set to strike from Monday of next week.

Cleaners and caterers at Beis will walk out indefinitely, in an escalation of their long battle over pay. And they'll be joined by porters, security and post room workers who are set to strike for five days from Monday 22 July.

The Beis strikers want outsourcers ISS and Aramark to pay them the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour.

They also demand equal terms and conditions with workers directly employed by the government and to ultimately be taken back in house.

Their action will follow a strike by workers at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

PCS members there are demanding that outsourcer Interserve recognises the union, and pays for changes to contracts that put workers in financial difficulties.

●Join the Beis picket line as workers walk out. Mon 15 July, 12 noon. Beis, 1 Victoria Street, Westminster London.

HMRC cleaners will be on strike at Imperial Court and Regian House in Liverpool, and Litherland House and the Triad in Bootle



BEIS WORKERS on strike in June

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Museum strike vote

WORKERS IN the Science Museum Group (SMG) have voted overwhelmingly for industrial action over pay.

Some 79.3 percent of those who voted backed strikes, while 94.8 percent backed action short of strike.

The turnout was "well over the legal threshold".

The museums in the dispute include

the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester and the National Railway Museum in York, as well as London's Science Museum.

Sharon Brown of the workers' Prospect union said, "This is a very strong result in favour of industrial action and shows the strength of feeling within the Science Museum Group."

DVSA strike ballot starts

WORKERS AT the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) are balloting for strikes in a long-running dispute over working conditions.

The PCS union wants its members to vote for strikes against longer working days, lack of redundancy consultation, staffing shortages and increasing workloads. The ballot is set to end on Friday of next week.

PRIDE



Organisers said 1.5 million came on the annual Pride march in central London

HEALTH WORKERS

Bradford hospital workers out against privatisation

OVER 300 workers at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust began a seven-day walkout on Monday of this week.

The Unison union members in West Yorkshire are the latest group of workers to join the fight against a new form of privatisation.

The cleaners, domestics, porters and other support staff mounted pickets outside the Bradford Royal Infirmary, St Luke's Hospital and other sites.

Bosses want to outsource their jobs to a "wholly-owned subsidiary", a privately-registered company whose sole shareholder is the trust.

They allow bosses to undermine wages and terms and conditions to pave the way for full-blown privatisation.

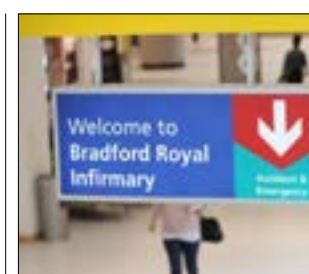
Natalie Rattcliffe, Unison regional organiser, said, "This sends a clear message that message that members are angry."

Family

"They clearly want to stay employed within the NHS to ensure they retain the same conditions—and to remain part of the NHS family."

Rattcliffe slammed hospital bosses' empty promise to keep pay and terms and conditions the same for 25 years after a transfer.

"Our members see this as a promise that can be easily broken and 97 percent of



them made the very difficult decision vote to strike," she said.

"Other trusts in England have dropped or shelved their plans, but the Bradford Trust seems hell-bent on imposing this company on our members."

A series of walkouts in Wigan last summer forced hospital bosses to drop similar plans to outsource hundreds of jobs.

The victory saw other trusts back down and the NHS Improvement regulator issue guidance instructing trusts to pause setting up new wholly-owned subsidiaries.

But bosses now want to restart their privatisation drive.

The strikes in Bradford follows hundreds of workers at Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust being outsourced last week.

More strikes—and coordinating them across hospitals—can force bosses' back.

TRANSPORT WORKERS

AIRPORTS

Dates announced in Scottish air traffic controllers' dispute

AIR TRAFFIC control workers for Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) in Scotland have announced strike dates in their dispute over pay.

Workers plan to walk out at Inverness on 21 July, at Sumburgh, Kirkwall and Wick on 22 July, and at Dundee, Stornaway and Benbecula on 23 July.

They are striking after voting resoundingly to reject a pay deal from HIAL in June.

The workers' Prospect union proposed a new deal on Thursday of last week to

try and resolve the dispute.

But bosses rejected it. Prospect negotiations officer David Avery said that the union would "seek to avoid disrupting major events as much possible".

But he added, "Any strike action is disruptive by its nature, particularly during the school holidays."

"We would like to reiterate that we have been seeking to resolve this dispute for more than a year."

"This action is only being taken as a last resort."

Alistair Farrow

Scotland airport action suspended and ended

A LONG-RUNNING dispute at Aberdeen Airport has now ended after a programme of strikes.

And at Glasgow Airport—owned by the same firm—action has been suspended following a new offer. The Unite union members were fighting over pay and attacks on their pension scheme.

AGS Airports Ltd bosses are trying to break a 2016 guarantee that their pensions scheme would remain open to existing members.



On a previous picket

Workers in Aberdeen voted by 60 percent to accept the latest deal. Workers in Glasgow are voting this week on whether to accept their deal.

TRAIN WORKERS

Conductors to down tools Cleaners walk out

STRIKES ARE set to hit East Midlands Trains (EMT) as senior conductors threaten walkouts.

The RMT union members are desperate for a resolution to their concerns about pay discrimination and contract issues.

They are set to strike on consecutive Saturdays—20 and 27 July and 3 August.

The dispute is over EMT management's failure to meet workers' demands over a resolution to pay discrimination and disputes over contracts.

CLEANERS FOR Great Western Railway (GWR) struck on Tuesday of this week, with a further walkout planned for Thursday.

They work on the Hitachi rail contract which supplies rolling stock to GWR.

Outsourced to ISS, the RMT members are fighting an imposition of new shift patterns for night shift cleaners.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said, "Hitachi, ISS and GWR should all be hanging their heads in shame."

STRIKE TO STOP CLIMATE CHAOS

Millions of people are expected to take part in a global climate strike on 20 September. Sarah Bates explains why it's critical for everyone to organise action in their workplaces

THERE ARE just eleven weeks to go until a critical event for everyone who wants to combat climate catastrophe.

Millions of people are likely to walk out worldwide on 20 September to demand that governments act urgently on climate change and that bosses stop polluting our planet.

Student strikers have issued a challenge to workers—to walk out of their workplaces and take to the streets alongside them on the day.

"We can't fight on our own—it's not enough," school striker Patrick told the Marxism Festival in London last Sunday.

"We need a general workers' movement—it should be them out on the streets as well."

Organise

And workers are beginning to organise action.

One worker at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) told Socialist Worker, "People are really enthusiastic about the strike and our younger PCS union reps are ready to walk out straight away."

An electronic calendar invite was sent to thousands



Ice in the Arctic is melting

of Defra workers across Britain telling them about the climate strike.

"We staged walkouts the day that Tony Blair went to war in Iraq—and we're using that template," said the worker.

Defra workers are also linking climate change to the issue of job security.

"We've drafted an open letter to our permanent secretary," said the worker. "It asks that the hundreds of workers hired on short-term Brexit contracts are put on permanent contracts to deal with the climate crisis."

At one university, workers have agreed to strike on the day.

And a charity worker in London told Socialist Worker,

"I think the chances of getting a walkout on the day are reasonably high.

"People are sympathetic to the idea that we need to do more about climate change."

She added, "Some people have suggested trying to have 30-minute walkouts.

"In some places that might be what happens, but I don't want the idea of 30-minute walkouts to limit people if they can get more."

The insurgent climate change movement has correctly argued that there can be no more "business as usual".

This applies to bosses who continue with digging for coal, airport expansion, plastic production and fracking.

But it also applies to how workers, students and socialists fight back.

Walkouts across Britain would be a roar of defiance against an elite that gambles away our futures in the pursuit of profit.

Patrick said that action on 20 September "is just the start". "We need to build the strike, and the next one and the next one until we get system change, not climate change," he said.

"We stand together as workers today and the workers of tomorrow for a better future."



CLIMATE STRIKERS demanding justice for the planet

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Join the Summer Uprising

EXTINCTION Rebellion (XR) activists are preparing for actions next week in five major cities.

People in Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds and London are getting ready to take to the streets.

"Summer Uprising" protests are due to begin from next Monday with XR groups planning on staging major disruptions in city

centres. XR promises "civil disobedience, family friendly spaces, love and music and an object of significance at every site."

The action follows the International Rebellion in April.

That saw thousands take part in direct action that shut down key parts of central London for ten days.

For more information go to bit.ly/SummerUprising



School students have called for strikes

Global Climate Strike for Future

Friday 20 September

How can I organise?

- Call a workplace meeting for all trade unionists and workers not in a union to discuss the climate crisis. Invite speakers from Extinction Rebellion, the Campaign against Climate Change and the school strikes.
- Set up "climate emergency" stalls in your canteen and organise a lunchtime demo.

- Think big—the school strikes combined a bold vision with confidence. Workers should match their courage.

- Argue for a strike on 20 September. Some people might be worried about being disciplined if they join unofficial strikes. But the bigger the action, the less chance of retaliation from bosses.